

make our country energy independent, this Congress must pass an energy bill that contains energy. This bill does not. I urge my colleagues to reject this awful bill; let's start over, and work to find real solutions to the energy needs facing our country.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to my dear friend from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO). He is the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, and he offered a substitute amendment in the committee to fix the foreign policy provisions in the legislation before you.

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Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, title II of the Democrats' energy dependence bill seeks to reduce global climate change by spending \$1.2 billion to increase Washington bureaucracy.

Instead of debating whether or not global warming exists and, if so, to what extent, we should all unite behind an effort to combat all forms of global pollution and promote the sale of U.S. environmental exports. Then we can spend more time and effort on cleaning up the environment rather than engaging in partisan disputes.

Nevertheless, as the senior Republican on the Global Environment Subcommittee, I believe this title is fatally flawed for three main reasons:

First, it combats air pollution, even though numerous reports and study show that conflict over access to clean water and contaminated food is just as important, if not more important, an immediate threat to the national and economic security. Therefore, we should expand the scope of it.

The U.N. Development Program's Human Development Report of 2006 states that there is a growing crisis with respect to clean water. This bill does not address it. And if it is not addressed as a priority issue, it will inherently lead to greater insecurity around the world.

Secondly, title II grows the size and scope of the Federal Government, adds more bureaucracies, more programs, more money.

Title II also creates five other new programs or initiatives such as the new International Exchange Program at a cost of over \$1 billion.

Third, title II states that the U.S. should negotiate new binding greenhouse gas reduction commitments from all major emitting countries based on their level of development.

In 1997, the other body voted 95-0 against such a commitment because economic dynamos such as China, India, and Brazil were not included.

Title II also ignores all that our government is doing in the area of climate change, including spending \$37 billion.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

My colleagues have said that the administration had neglected this issue

of low-level bureaucrats. We have an Under Secretary of State, an Assistant Secretary of State, and a Special Representative at the Department of State, all engaged in global climate diplomacy. I would say that we have been quite involved.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221. I am proud to sponsor this legislation as it moves this country closer toward energy independence amidst the needs of this Nation's entrepreneurs.

Small businesses are dramatically impacted by rising energy costs. According to a recent study conducted by the National Small Business Association, 93 percent of small business owners anticipate negative consequences to their businesses because of higher energy prices.

This bill includes numerous measures to help small businesses cope with these challenges. Many of these provisions offered by Mr. SHULER of our committee were designed to address the entrepreneurs' role not only as consumers but also as suppliers of energy.

It contains key initiatives to increase energy efficiency. With enhanced loan guarantees and lower fees on Small Business Administration loans, more small businesses will be able to purchase energy efficient technology.

The bill also requires the SBA to develop a national strategy for educating small firms about energy efficiency.

H.R. 3221 will encourage the creation of new energy efficient technologies and increase production of renewable fuels. Small businesses are the primary leaders in renewable fuels sectors, already making up more than 75 percent of biofuel producers. It creates private equity investment companies specifically for the purpose of funding renewable fuel production.

This legislation is the giant step forward in increasing the supply of energy while also creating smart usage. By voting for this bill, we can reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, all while making sure our economy is moving in the right direction.

I commend the leadership on this important bill, and I urge its immediate passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time on the minority side and yield myself such time as I may consume.

In recent years, it has become painfully clear that America is far too dependent on foreign oil. We import nearly two-thirds of the oil we consume. With gas prices in my district back in Cincinnati and throughout the country hovering around \$3 a gallon, it is important for Congress to continue exploring ways that we can produce more energy domestically rather than rely-

ing on oil from the volatile Middle East or from Nigeria or Venezuela or other unstable areas in the world. In fact, according to the Government Accountability Office, Americans paid \$38 billion more for gasoline in the first 6 months of last year than they paid during the first 6 months of the previous year. That is just unacceptable.

It is critical that we adopt a diversified and balanced energy strategy to become more self-sufficient. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, passed when the current minority was actually in the majority, took significant steps in that direction.

For example, we must increase our production of traditional fuel such as oil and natural gas, and strengthen conservation and efficiency efforts.

It is also important to provide incentives for the research and development of promising new technologies such as, for example, hydrogen fuel cells.

And, renewable energy, the vast majority of which is produced in our Nation's rural communities, is serving an important role in meeting America's energy needs. Biofuels have the potential to help wean Americans off foreign oil and to provide an economic boost for farmers and rural communities.

The potential should have fostered a serious and long overdue debate about reforming our Nation's agriculture policy which, in my view, with its subsidies and tariffs is in dire need of reform. Unfortunately, the farm bill that this new majority passed just this last week will cost \$286 billion over the next 5 years, with billions in subsidies, price guarantees, and direct payments going to large agribusinesses that already stand to benefit from increased market opportunities for renewable fuels.

This energy bill only exacerbates the problems which will be made worse by the farm bill that was passed last week. It authorizes the creation, for example, of government-backed venture capital firms to invest in renewable and biofuels enterprises under a new program at the SBA, the Small Business Administration. Nothing prohibits the existing small business investment companies, which are backed by the Federal Government's full faith and credit, from investing in companies that are involved in biofuels and renewable energy already.

To compound matters, this so-called energy bill before us today even authorizes the SBA to fund the development of business plans for these venture capital programs. There is nothing to demonstrate that a market failure exists in the development and construction of such facilities. As a result, I see no reason to provide further incentives through the creation of a totally new program at the Small Business Administration. We are just growing government. I would urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.